

# Plant Disease in Kansas

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## Wheat disease continues to roll on

### Special points of interest:

- *Leaf rust still number 1*

The state's wheat crop continues to decline from disease pressure. Frequent rains across much of the state have been ideal for many foliar diseases.

Leaf rust is severe in many fields across eastern, central, and parts of western Kansas. Leaf area infected is commonly from 30 to 90 per cent.. Some fields have lost almost all leaf tissue to disease and the plants are filling from the green tissue of the stem. Occasional fields are clean either because of strong resistance to leaf rust or the timely application of fungicide. Over the last two weeks, survey has been conducted intensively in central, north central, and northwest Kansas. Fields were generally at milk to

early dough stages. These findings are similar to reports of a couple weeks ago in south central, central, and some southwest observations.

Second to leaf rust is speckled leaf blotch. One out of about five fields from Norton eastward to Belleville in Republic county had leaf severities of 10 to 30 percent in survey of late May. Tan spot was reported in a few fields and associated with low till continuous cropping in Phillips, Jewell, and Republic counties.

Stripe rust was reported in a few fields in the northwest quarter of Kansas. Reports were made in about 1 of 10 fields and no moderate to high severity was

recorded. All reports were trace to low disease pressure.

In extreme northwest Kansas around Goodland, disease pressure drops off significantly with leaf rust at about 1-3 per cent on the flag leaf.

Other diseases reported this past week included take all in Jewell and Republic counties and barley yellow dwarf in Lincoln County.

Thunderstorms are in the forecast for much of Kansas in early June (NOAA). Harvest is delayed from 7 to 10 days in southern Kansas till about June 11. Weather may delay cutting even longer if storms continue to frequent the state.



Figure 1: Leaf rust at severe levels

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL  
PROGRAM

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## Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

### Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.